NC Growing Together and Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Partner on GIS Update of NC Local Food Infrastructure Inventory

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Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) has partnered with the North Carolina Growing Together Project (NCGT) to host a GIS update of the North Carolina Local Food Infrastructure Inventory.

The map can be accessed online here:

NC Local Food Infrastructure Inventory: http://arcg.is/1zyWXv

The Local Food Infrastructure Inventory is a mapped data set of businesses that serve as intermediary steps in local food supply chains. This includes value-added processors (for example, meat and seafood processors, cheese manufacturers, specialty jams and pickling operations), fresh produce wholesaler/distributors, multi-farm CSA's, food hubs, community kitchens, incubator farms, and cold storage locations. The inventory does *not* include information on end retailers (e.g., restaurants, grocery stores, and others selling in direct-to-consumer channels).

Map users can filter by county or district, select from eight different map layers, and sort data by type.

"Creating the infrastructure inventory was a collaborative process, and we couldn't have done it without the support of Cooperative Extension agents, county and city planners, and regional council of government staff across the state," said Emily Edmonds, NCGT Extension & Outreach Program Manager. "The inventory is an excellent tool to help regional and local agencies fully understand the opportunities and challenges of strengthening local food supply chains in their own communities."

"Showing the location of food system infrastructure gives regions a tool to demonstrate the agricultural sectors impact on local and regional economic development. Whether through sustainable value-added food system products, various food processors, markets or hubs, the data from the infrastructure map will be useful in developing strategies to improve transportation and marketing of agricultural and food products, providing critical information for planning and development," said Matthew Dolge, Executive Director of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

The map was designed to support market development for producers and others in the local food supply chain. The inventory supports the work of NCGT's Local Food Economies initiative, a program that

works with local and regional governments and business developers to provide supportive business environments for farms and food businesses. (See www.localfoodeconomies.org for additional information.)

NCGT originally developed the inventory in collaboration with North Carolina Cooperative Extension's Local Foods Flagship Program. The data includes NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) entries, analyzed and edited with assistance from county planners and economic developers, Cooperative Extension county centers, and Council of Government staff.

Citizens and supply chain actors are welcome to submit updates and additions to the map, using the contact email address and forms provided on the information page.